

Abbot's Hall Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

January 2024

Be The Best You Can Be

AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship occupies an important and unique place in the life of Abbot's Hall Primary School. It provides an opportunity for members of the school community to pause from activity, to gather, to remind themselves of and to reflect upon the beliefs and values which bind the school community together. It also allows those with a religious commitment the possibility of entering into worship and those with no religious commitment to sense what worship is and to reflect deeply. In this way we aim both to affirm and to protect the integrity of all members of the school community.

In particular, collective worship at Abbot's Hall Primary School aims to:

- provide an opportunity for all members of the school community to stop activity, to pause and to reflect on important issues;
- foster a sense of fellowship and belonging
- foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of the natural world
- build up the sense of group identity, fostering concern for the needs of each other;
- give pupils the experience of being still or silent;
- provide an opportunity for children to learn about equality through understanding of different beliefs and cultures
- provide an opportunity for celebrating times of success or joy;
- provide an opportunity for meeting at times of sadness or sorrow;
- provide an opportunity for highlighting and reflecting upon core school values – such as striving to be honest and truthful, trying hard in all things, respecting oneself as well as other people, striving to be fair and just
- offer the opportunity to mark significant points in the year, such as festivals and school events.
- allow time to reflect on the PSHE work that we value in our school
- allow time to promote British values
- provide an opportunity to reflect on our school Be The Best You Can Be value.

Intent

At Abbot's Hall School, Collective Worship contributes to the *spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development of pupils* in the following ways:

Collective worship contributes to the *spiritual* development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- reflect upon the value, purpose and meaning of things;
- experience times of quiet inactivity to counterbalance the activity which generally marks the rest of the school day; and
- hear stories and words from religious and other literature which suggest that there is more to life than meets the eye.

Collective worship contributes to the *moral* development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- reflect on matters concerning right and wrong;
- hear about incidents in which, and people in whom, goodness or right are exemplified; and
- learn about religious and other teachings concerning right and wrong.

Implementation

Collective worship contributes to the *social* development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- gather with others for a common purpose;
- share times of joy and times of sadness with others; and
- learn how to behave appropriately within a specific social setting
- discuss the values and vision within our school.
- discuss and reflect on the theme of the week based on the PSHE work implemented

Collective worship contributes to the *cultural* development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- hear music from a range of times, places and cultures;
- reflect upon ideas concerning beauty and that which is pleasing to the eye and ear
- appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the school community and beyond.
- celebrate different cultural groups, the different celebrations and festivals throughout the year
- collect an appreciation of different religions and cultures that make up our school and local community

Collective worship contributes to the *intellectual* development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- learn and to engage with their minds;
- have ideas and beliefs confirmed or challenged; and
- reflect upon the nature of learning and education
- discuss different religions, share similarities and differences and appreciate and respect other faiths

Impact

At Abbot's Hall school the impact of Collective Worship is that children have the skills to co-operate with each other and those around them. They will have opportunities to collaborate and share ideas. They learn about the world around them through picture news and the use of Rights Respecting Schools. They will apply these new skills to their lives and learning.

ORGANISATION

At our school all children take part in collective worship. This is expected in all years to support the children. Class collective worship should take place at least once a week,

An adult hosts a Wednesday Assembly linked to current issues through the use of the Picture News resource or other relevant topics that broaden the children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding.

Our Jigsaw/PSHE theme for the half term is introduced by an adult through collective worship, usually on the first Wednesday assembly of the half term.

Foundation Stage pupils join regularly with Phase 1, 2 and 3 for Monday Proud Celebration Assembly and termly host a Year Group Celebration assembly. When Foundation Stage pupils do not attend assembly they will take part in an act of daily Collective Worship in their own classrooms in an age appropriate manner. Their Collective Worship will link in with their PSHE and RE topics and allow time for reflection and discussion.

The usual timetable for Assemblies is:

Monday – In the hall whole school Celebration and Proud Certificates

Tuesday – Singing Assembly

Wednesday – Theme Assembly/Picture News Years FS – Yr4

Thursday- Visiting speaker/theme assembly

Friday- Class & Talent Assemblies

Year Group Celebration Assemblies

These presentation assemblies follow a format of shared learning and may include music, drama and song. We aim to “pitch” the content to enable our youngest children to take part fully in the assembly. Like all other acts of Collective Worship, this presentation should contribute towards the spiritual, moral or cultural development of those taking part and reflection time should be included as part of the format – to conclude or inspire. All children in the class are expected to have a role in the assembly and we invite parents to join us.

ELEMENTS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Acts of collective worship at Abbot’s Hall Primary School include many elements. Some of these are:

Music/Songs

Music can help to set the scene and create an appropriate atmosphere. It can be listened to, so helping pupils to reflect on a theme. It can be played or sung.

Stories of the faiths

At Abbot’s Hall School we remember to choose stories/passages that are appropriate to the age of the pupils, as well as being in harmony with the current PSHE theme.

Reflection Techniques

During collective worship music and a range of techniques can be used to help create a reflective atmosphere. These include using art or artefacts, using flowers, plants or natural objects, having children act out stories and situations and sharing a range of stories from the many faiths that make up our multicultural community.

Prayer

To most people prayer is the central part of worship. Prayer can involve words, but doesn’t necessarily have to. Prayer can be a still and quiet reflection. We are aware of the rituals of prayer and that by asking the pupils to “put their hands together and close eyes” we fail to respect that people from other religious traditions have different positions that they assume for prayer. At Abbot’s Hall School we invite children to reflect in an appropriate way by respecting each other and sitting quietly in order to concentrate.

WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Parents have the statutory right to withdraw their children from school worship. This can be

- total – that is where the children would be wholly excused from all acts of collective worship
- partial – that is, where children are excused from certain kinds of collective worship only or from certain elements within an act of collective worship.

At Abbot’s Hall School, we believe that collective worship has a unifying role and although parents do not have to *justify* requests to withdraw, the Head teacher will speak with the family in person, to ensure:

- that there is no misunderstanding about the nature of collective worship in general
- that they have not been misinformed about the school’s practice in particular
- where possible a partial rather than entire withdrawal.

RIGHTS OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF

Whilst teachers are contracted to attend assemblies this duty is subject to their freedoms under the 1944 act not to attend collective worship or the collective worship element. Staff wishing to discuss this should see the Headteacher.

Statement of the Law

The 1988 Education Act states that collective worship "**shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character**" (7:1)

- all pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day
- this may be as a whole school or in different age groups
- the act of worship may happen at any time of the day
- the act of worship has to take place on school premises

Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored by the Headteacher and the governing body. It will be reviewed every three years or before if necessary.

Signed: R Bailey

Position: Headteacher

Signed: G Kenworthy

Position: Chair Of Governors

Date: February 2024